

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 02552 220843Z

ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 2552

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XA US SF ML

SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ON VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S
MEETING WITH VORSTER

REF: STATE 123224

1. MALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHARLES SAMBA CISSOKHO HAS BEEN ON ONE TRIP ABROAD AFTER ANOTHER, AND SO IT WAS ONLY ON JUNE 17 THAT AMBASSADOR WAS GIVEN APPOINTMENT TO BRIEF HIM AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL. ALSO PRESENT AT MEETING WAS SEYDOU TRAORE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO UNITED STATES.

2. AMBASSADOR PRESENTED TEXT OF VICE PRESIDENT'S MAY 20 PRESS CONFERENCE IN FRENCH TO FOREIGN MINISTER, MADE POINTS SET FORTH REFTEL, AND REFERRED TO DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE SINCE MONDALE-VORSTER MEETING. FOREIGN MINISTER RESPONDED BY FIRST STRESSING DEEP CONCERN OF MALIAN GOVERNMENT FOR SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, WHICH HE SAID IT FOLLOWED CLOSELY.

3. CISSOKHO SAID MALIAN GOVERNMENT APPRECIATED EFFORTS OF UNITED STATES AND WENT TO BRING ABOUT MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAMA KO 02552 220843Z

ON RHODESIA, HE SAID, MALI HELD UNITED KINGDOM DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROBLEM AS CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNING POWER. IT HAD HAD THE MEANS TO HANDLE THE SITUATION AT TIME OF UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN 6&65 AND HAD NOT USED THEM. FOREIGN MINISTER ASSERTED THAT IF REBELLION HAD BEEN LED BY BLACKS BRITAIN WOULD HAVE MOVED QUICKLY TO PUT IT DOWN BY FORCE; BECAUSE UDI WAS ACTION BY FELLOW WHITES, UNITED KINGDOM HAD TEM-

PORIZED AND SMITH REGIME HAD BECOME ENTRENCHED.

4. CISSOKHO STATED FIRMLY THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT BRING SOLUTION TO RHODESIAN PROBLEM AND THAT ARMED STRUGGLE WAS ESSENTIAL. AMBASSADOR REJOINED EQUALLY FIRMLY THAT, APART FROM HUMAN AND MATERIAL LOSSES RESULTING FROM VIOLENCE, ARMED STRUGGLE WOULD TAKE YEARS WHEREAS WE HOPED BY OUR COURSE TO ACHIEVE MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA BY 1978. FOREIGN MINISTER THEN MODIFIED POSITION TO STATE THAT MALI DID NOT WANT WAR EITHER BUT BELIEVED NEGOTIATIONS AND NATIONALIST GUERRILLA ACTION HAD TO BE PURSUED IN PARALLEL; IT WAS ONLY PRESSURE FROM SUCH NATIONALIST FIGHTING, HE INSISTED, THAT HAD CAUSED WEST TO TAKE ACTION NOW. CISSOKHO ADDED WITH A SMILE THAT HE KNEW, HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT PROVIDE ARMS TO THE NATIONALISTS. AMBASSADOR RESTATED U.S. POSITION.

5. TURNING TO NAMIBIA, CISSOKHO MADE AN ENTIRELY UNQUALIFIED POSITIVE STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE CONTACT GROUP HAD REGISTERED A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT IN GETTING PRIME MINISTER VORSTER TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY, AS OPPOSED TO "HOMELANDS", FOR THE FUTURE INDEPENDENT TERRITORY.

6. WITH RESPECT TO SOUTH AFRICA, COLONEL CISSOKHO SAID HE HAD NO HOPE THAT THE WHITE MENTALITY WOULD CHANGE OWING TO GENERATIONS OF CONDITIONING, WHICH EVEN CONVINCED THEM THAT MAJORITY RULE WOULD MEAN THEIR MASSACRE BY THE BLACKS. SOUTH AFRICA
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAMA KO 02552 220843Z

MIGHT BE FORCED TO CHANGE ONLY IF ALL STATES ADHERED TO ALL UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS TO ISOLATE IT. EACH NATION, LARGE OR SMALL, HAD A PART IN PROCESS. ROLE OF ONE THAT SOLD FOOD ACROSS BORDER WAS CLEARLY NOT THE SAME AS THAT OF STATE THAT SUPPLIED NUCLEAR COMPLEX. NEVERTHELESS, IF EACH DID ITS PART, CHANGE MIGHT BE BROUGHT ABOUT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

7. APPARENTLY SEEKING TO MITIGATE RATHER NEGATIVE CAST EVIDENT IN HIS REMARKS, FOREIGN MINISTER ENDED BY SAYING THAT MALI RECOGNIZED AND WAS GRATIFIED BY NEW ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS ON PART OF NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION CONCERNING SOUTHERN AFRICA. MALI APPRECIATED U.S. AND WESTERN EFFORTS; IT FEARED THEY WOULD PROVE TO BE NOT ENOUGH, BUT THE EFFORTS WERE STILL APPRECIATED AND MALI HOPED THEY WOULD SUCCEED.

8. COMMENT: WHILE SKEPTICISM REMAINS, LANGUAGE AND TONE OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S REACTION WERE MORE MODERATE THAN HERETOFORE, FOR EXAMPLE, AS COMPARED TO HIS CATEGORIC STATEMENT TO CONGRESSMAN DIGGS ON APRIL 12 THAT "ARMED CONFLICT WAS THE ONLY POSSIBILITY" IN RHODESIA (BAMA KO 1515). CISSOKHO IS ONE OF THE RADICALS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND SO HIS LESS MILITANT STANCE IS ALL THE MORE INTERESTING. WE CONCLUDE THAT WESTERN EFFORT,

SPEARHEADED BY THE UNITED STATES, IS HAVING SOME IMPACT HERE.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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